THE WORLD'S MOST WAY PAST COOL COMIC!
Archie COMICS
181
US $2.25
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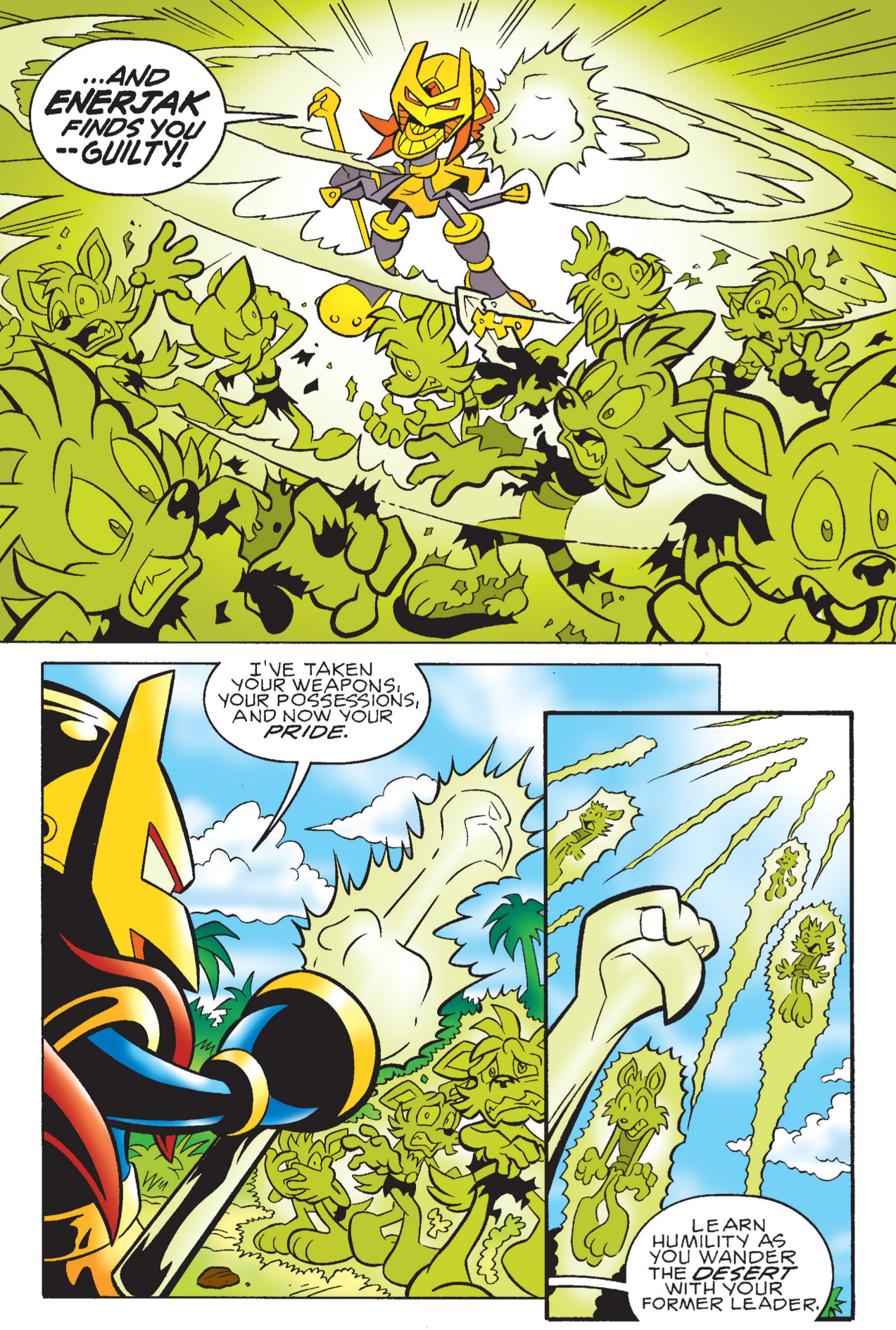
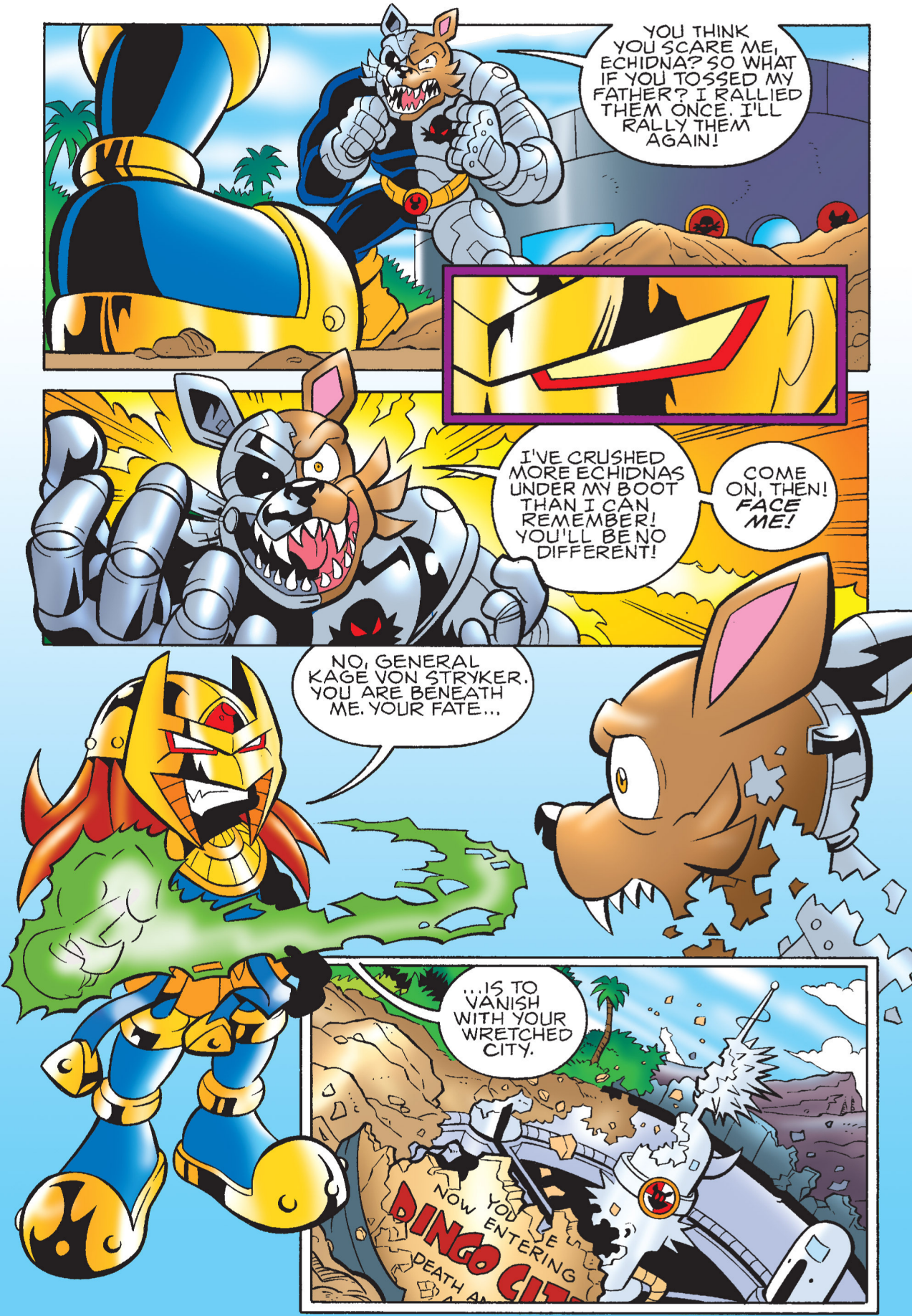
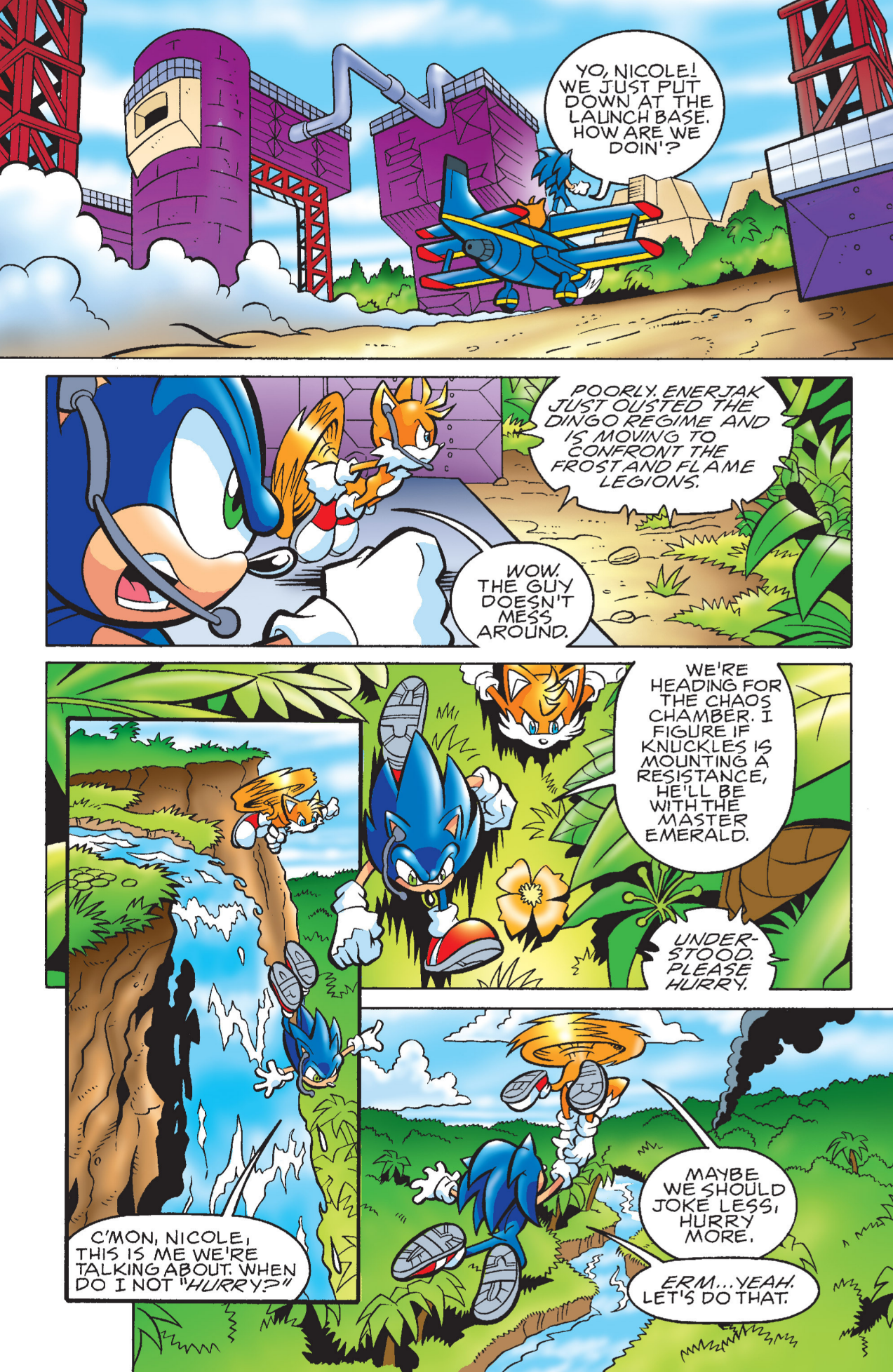
SEGA
SONIC
THE HEDGEHOG
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
WHO IS ENERJAK?
Tracy Yardley!
HUN ZEK ER

STEP ON IT, TAILS. WE NEED TO GET TO ANGEL ISLAND AND FIND KNUCKLES--
--BEFORE ENERJAK DOES!
ENERJAK: REBORN
CHAPTER ONE: RISING EVIL
SONIC? TAILS? THIS IS NICOLE IN NEW MOBOTROPOLIS...
Writer: IAN FLYNN • Pencils: TRACY YARDLEY!
Inks: JIM AMASH • Letters: JOHN WORKMAN
Colors: JASON JENSEN • Editor: MIKE PELLERITO
Managing Editor: VICTOR GORELICK
Editor-in-Chief: RICHARD GOLDWATER
special thanks to ROBERT LEFFLER, DYNA LOPEZ and CINDY CHAU at SEGA LICENSING

...I'LL BE MONITORING YOU TWO FROM HERE. GOOD LUCK.
DOWNUNDA FREEDOM FIGHTERS, DO YOU COPY?
SOMETHING IS SCRAMBLING EVERYTHING I SENT OUT.
MONKEY KHAN, DO YOU COPY?
IT HAS TO BE ENERJAK! DID YOU NOT NOTICE THAT ANGEL ISLAND IS FLOATING RIGHT TOWARDS US? IF YOU'D ONLY ACTED AS SOON AS I--
WE WILL BE WELL-PREPARED FOR HIM, DIMITRI. THE PROBE I SENT TO ANGEL ISLAND HAS ARRIVED.
BEGINNING LIVE FEED NOW. JULIE-SU, CAN YOU TELL US WHAT WE'RE SEEING?
THAT'S CAVEM CANUS, THE DINGO CITY.
THEY'RE DOOMED.
YOUR CRIMES AGAINST THE ECHIDNAS HAVE BEEN MANY...

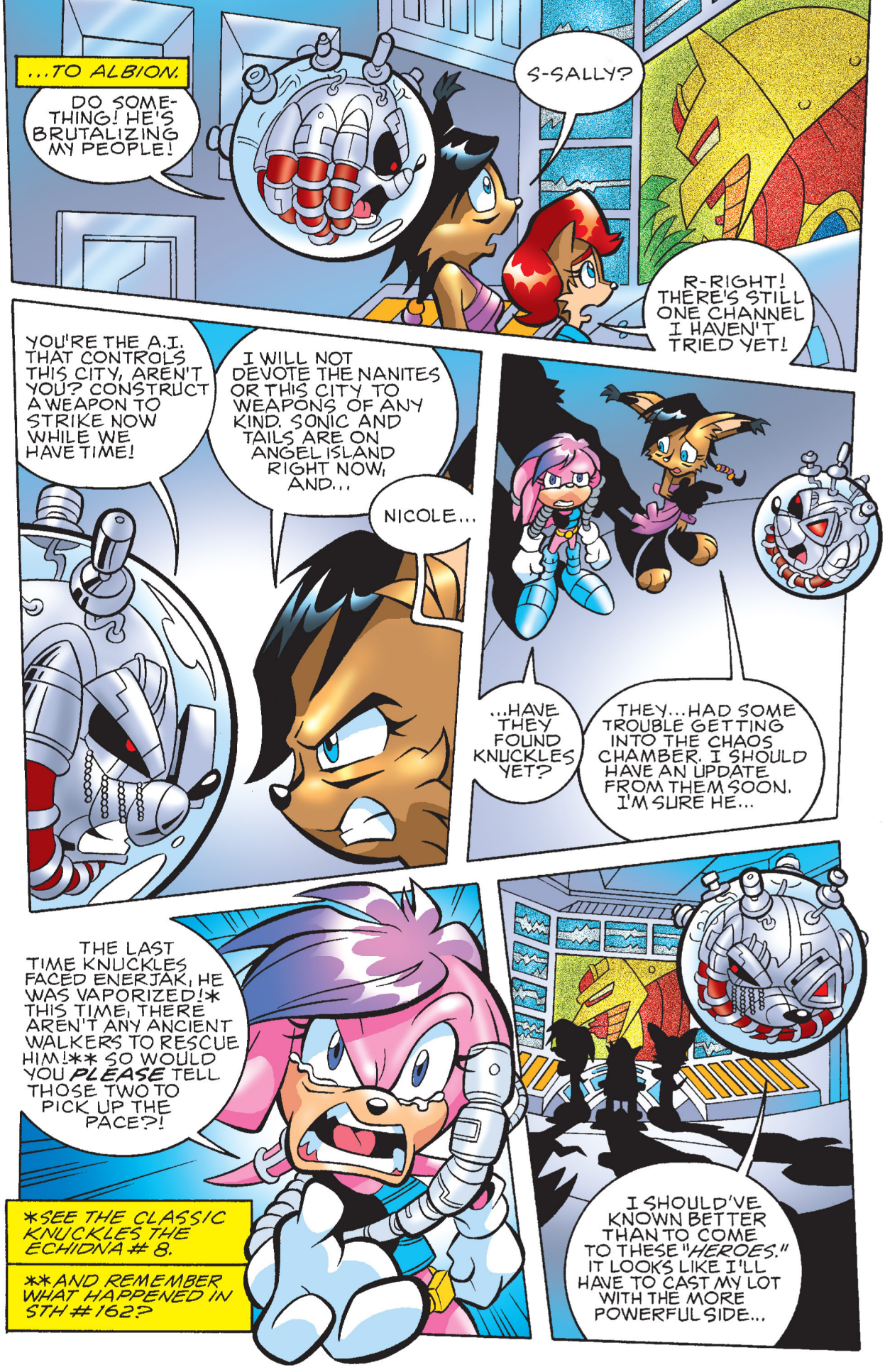

...AND ENERJAK FINDS YOU --GUILTY!
I'VE TAKEN YOUR WEAPONS, YOUR POSSESSIONS, AND NOW YOUR PRIDE.
LEARN HUMILITY AS YOU WANDER THE DESERT WITH YOUR FORMER LEADER.

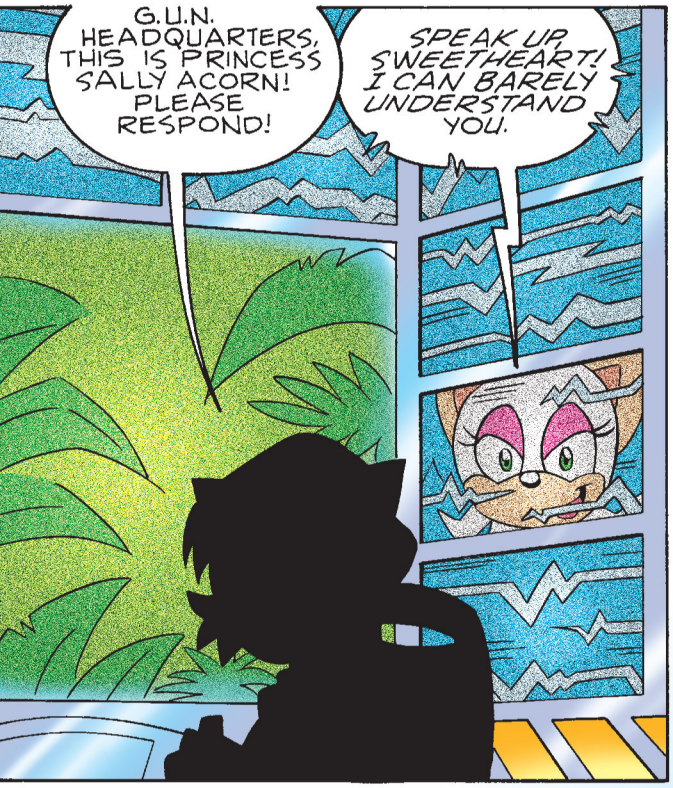

YOU THINK YOU SCARE ME, ECHIDNA? SO WHAT IF YOU TOSSED MY FATHER? I RALLIED THEM ONCE. I'LL RALLY THEM AGAIN!
I'VE CRUSHED MORE ECHIDNAS UNDER MY BOOT THAN I CAN REMEMBER! YOU'LL BE NO DIFFERENT!
COME ON, THEN! FACE ME!
NO, GENERAL KAGE VON STRYKER. YOU ARE BENEATH ME. YOUR FATE...
...IS TO VANISH WITH YOUR WRETCHED CITY.
NOW YOU'RE ENTERING
DINGO CITY
DEATH A


YO, NICOLE! WE JUST PUT DOWN AT THE LAUNCH BASE. HOW ARE WE DOIN'?
POORLY. ENERJAK JUST OUSTED THE DINGO REGIME AND IS MOVING TO CONFRONT THE FROST AND FLAME LEGIONS.
WOW. THE GUY DOESN'T MESS AROUND.
WE'RE HEADING FOR THE CHAOS CHAMBER. I FIGURE IF KNUCKLES IS MOUNTING A RESISTANCE, HE'LL BE WITH THE MASTER EMERALD.
UNDER-STOOD. PLEASE HURRY.
C'MON, NICOLE, THIS IS ME WE'RE TALKING ABOUT. WHEN DO I NOT "HURRY?"
MAYBE WE SHOULD JOKE LESS, HURRY MORE.
ERM... YEAH. LET'S DO THAT.

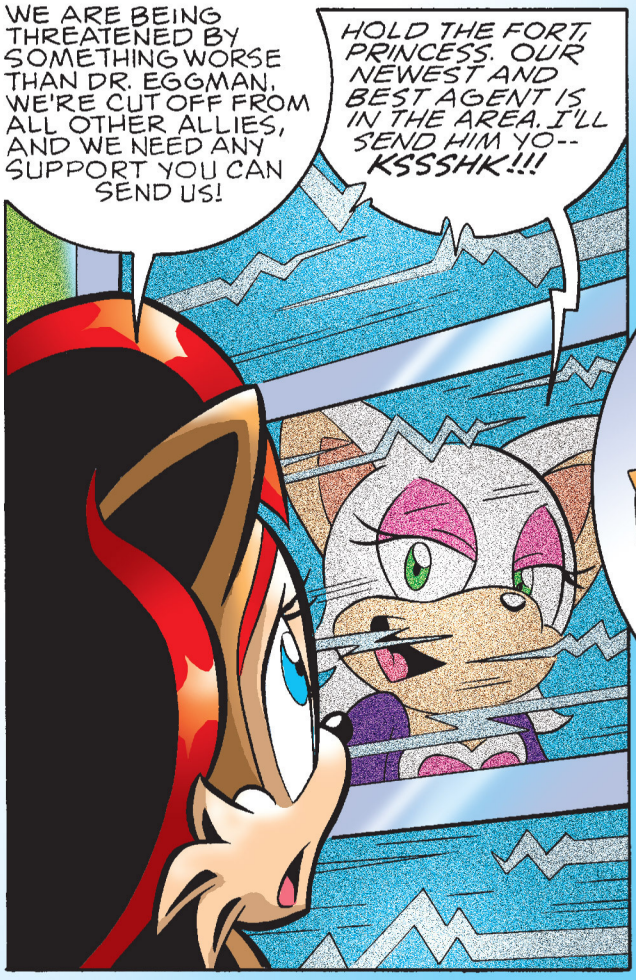
CH-KAM
CH-KAM
KEEP HIM AT BAY, FROST LEGION! SHOW HIM THE PENALTY FOR STEALING MY BIRTH-RIGHT!
MY DEAR FRIEND, YOU NEVER WANTED MY POWER. YOU WERE PROUD OF WHO YOU ONCE WERE. IT IS A CRIME THAT YOU HAVE BEEN REDUCED TO THIS.
BE WHOLE ONCE MORE, REMINGTON!
FWASH!

M-MY M-M-MEMORY ...M-M-MY B-BODY...
RESTORED TO THEIR NATURAL STATE. JUST AS I'VE LIBERATED YOU FROM YOUR UNNATURAL CYBERNETIC PARTS...
FWASH
...SO WILL I LIBERATE THE REST OF THE FLAME AND FROST LEGIONS!
YOU MONSTER! THOSE PARTS ENHANCED US! IT'S NOT UNNATURAL...
...TO BETTER YOUR-SELF!
IF THAT IS HOW YOU...
...AND YOUR IDIOT FOLLOWERS FEEL...
...THEN YOU CAN STAY STRANDED HERE.
THOSE *THANKFUL* FOR MY BLESSING SHALL BE RETURNED HOME...


...TO ALBION.
DO SOMETHING! HE'S BRUTALIZING MY PEOPLE!
S-SALLY?
R-RIGHT! THERE'S STILL ONE CHANNEL I HAVEN'T TRIED YET!
YOU'RE THE A.I. THAT CONTROLS THIS CITY, AREN'T YOU? CONSTRUCT A WEAPON TO STRIKE NOW WHILE WE HAVE TIME!
I WILL NOT DEVOTE THE NANITES OR THIS CITY TO WEAPONS OF ANY KIND. SONIC AND TAILS ARE ON ANGEL ISLAND RIGHT NOW, AND...
NICOLE...
...HAVE THEY FOUND KNUCKLES YET?
THEY...HAD SOME TROUBLE GETTING INTO THE CHAOS CHAMBER. I SHOULD HAVE AN UPDATE FROM THEM SOON. I'M SURE HE...
THE LAST TIME KNUCKLES FACED ENERJAK, HE WAS VAPORIZED!* THIS TIME, THERE AREN'T ANY ANCIENT WALKERS TO RESCUE HIM!** SO WOULD YOU *PLEASE* TELL THOSE TWO TO PICK UP THE PACE?!
I SHOULD'VE KNOWN BETTER THAN TO COME TO THESE "*HEROES.*" IT LOOKS LIKE I'LL HAVE TO CAST MY LOT WITH THE MORE POWERFUL SIDE...
*SEE THE CLASSIC KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA # 8.
**AND REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED IN STH #162?

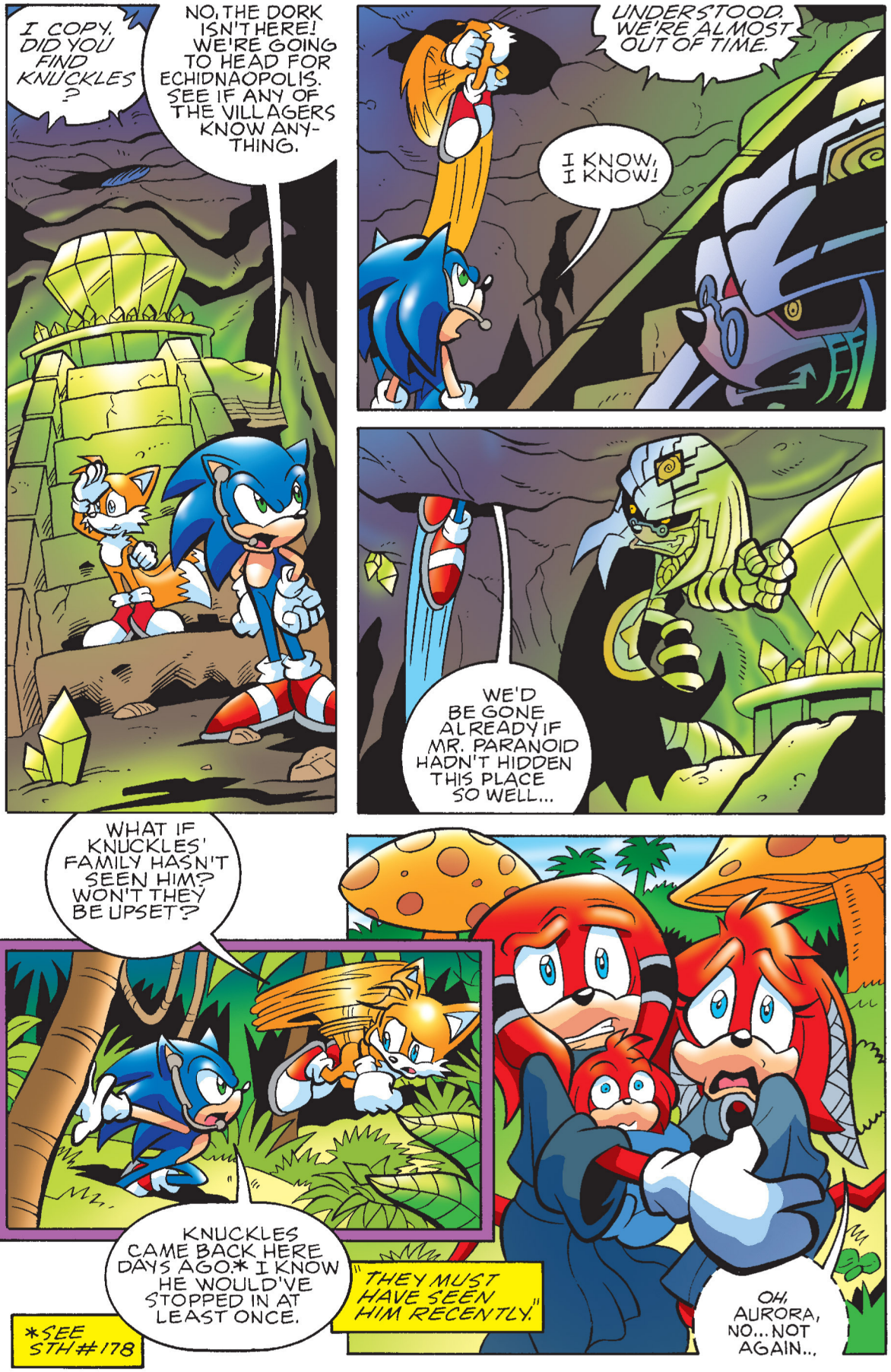

G.U.N. HEADQUARTERS, THIS IS PRINCESS SALLY ACORN! PLEASE RESPOND!
SPEAK UP SWEETHEART! I CAN BARELY UNDERSTAND YOU.

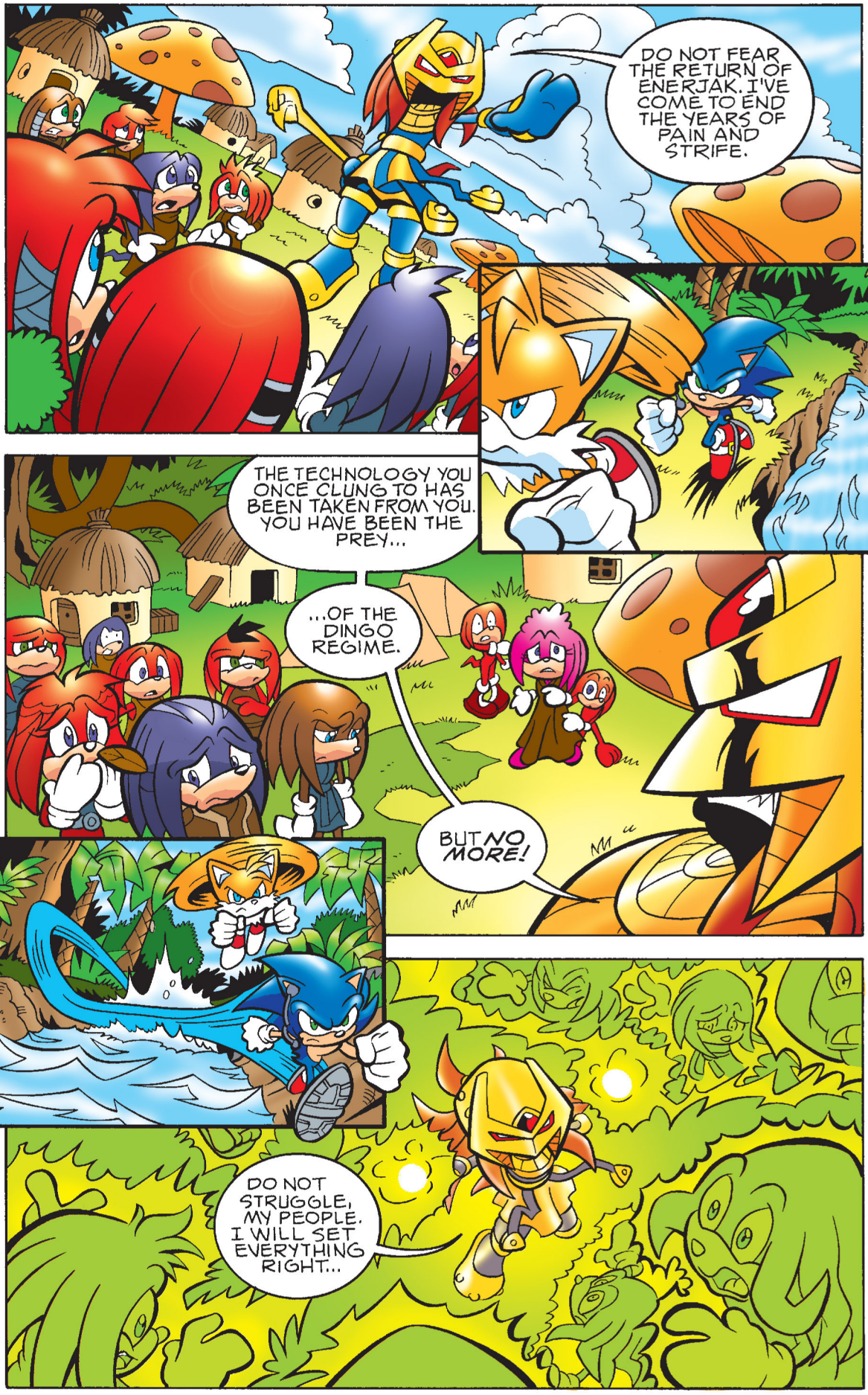
ROUGE ?!
KEEP TALKING, SALLY. I'LL DO WHAT I CAN TO STRENGTHEN THE SIGNAL.

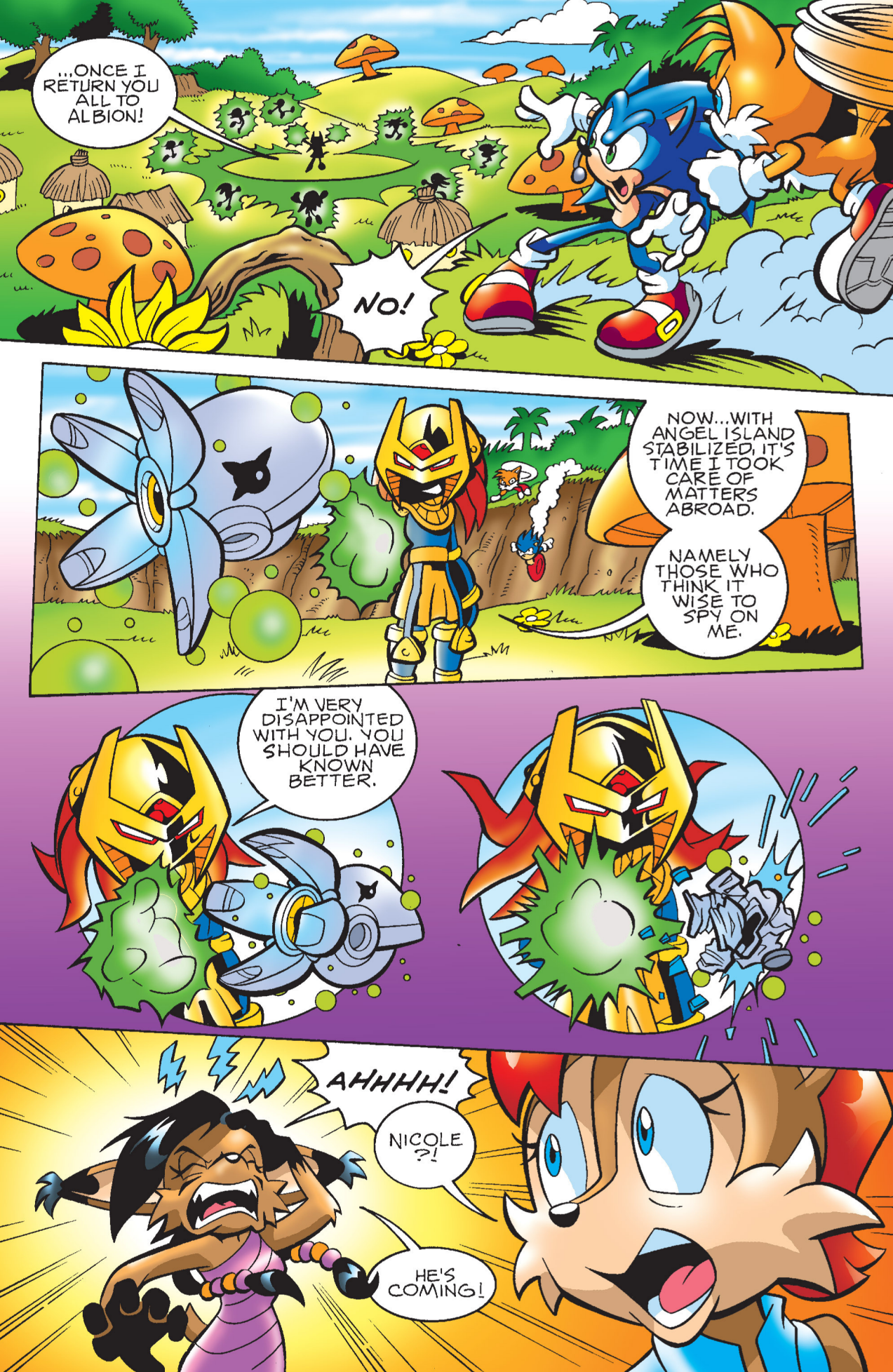

WE ARE BEING THREATENED BY SOMETHING WORSE THAN DR. EGGMAN. WE'RE CUT OFF FROM ALL OTHER ALLIES, AND WE NEED ANY SUPPORT YOU CAN SEND US!
HOLD THE FORT, PRINCESS. OUR NEWEST AND BEST AGENT IS IN THE AREA. I'LL SEND HIM YO-- KSSSHK!!!

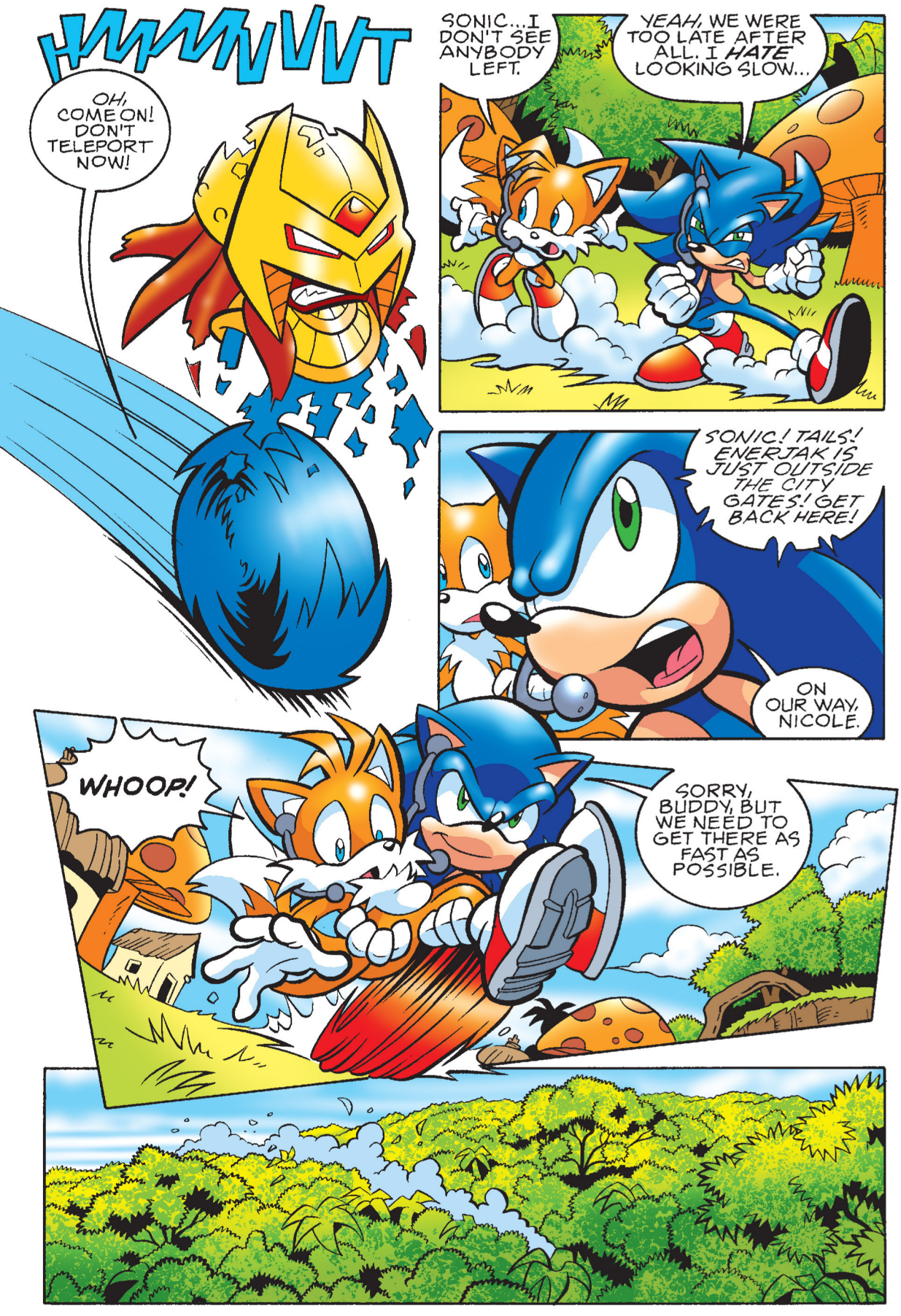
WE'VE LOST CONTACT. THAT WAS OUR LAST OPTION.
AT LEAST WE GOT THROUGH TO SOMEBODY. IF OUR LUCK HOLDS OUT, THE BOYS WILL FIND...

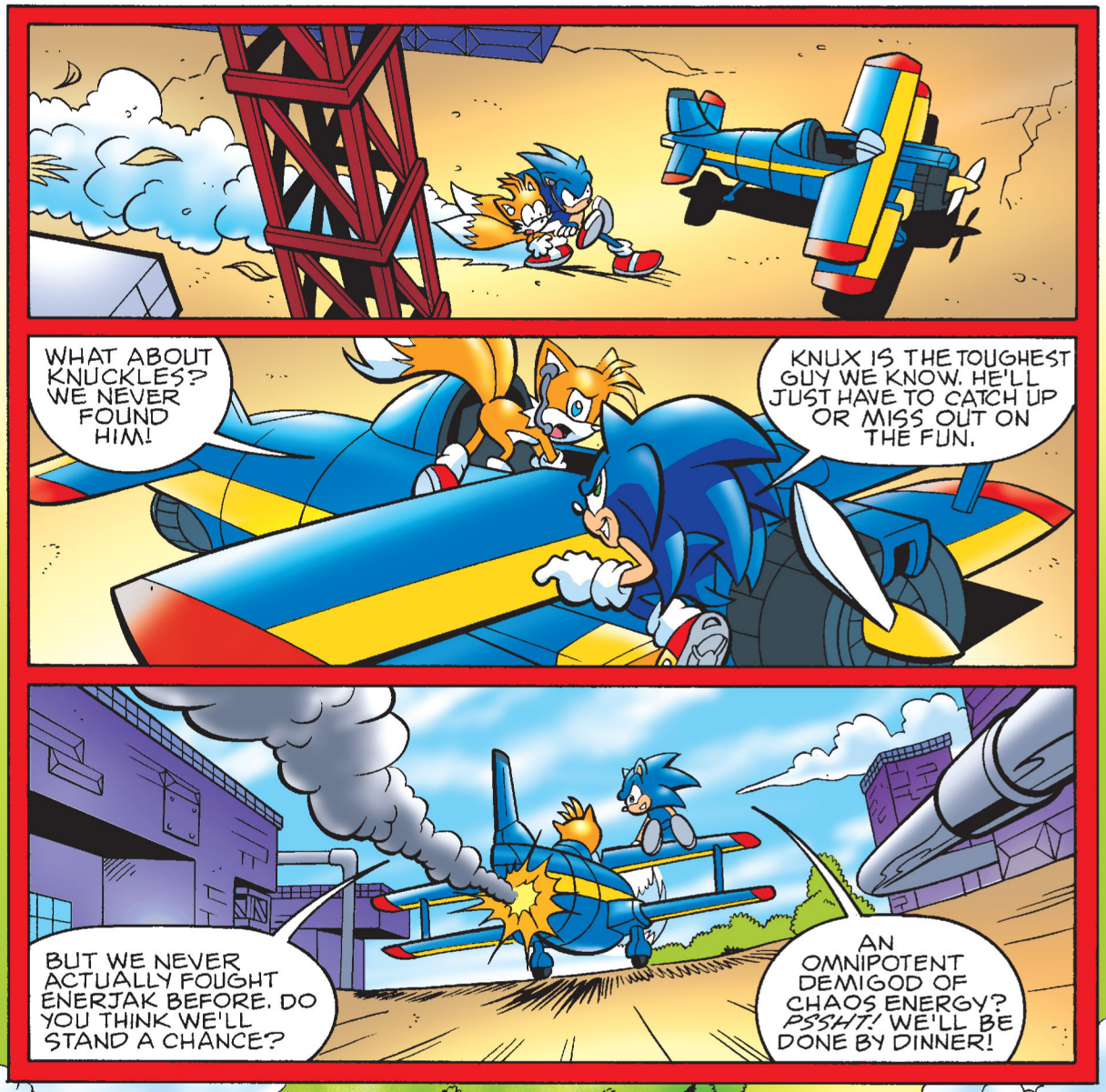
YO, NICOLE! SONIC HERE!


I COPY. DID YOU FIND KNUCKLES?
NO, THE DORK ISN'T HERE! WE'RE GOING TO HEAD FOR ECHIDNAOPOLIS. SEE IF ANY OF THE VILLAGERS KNOW ANYTHING.
UNDERSTOOD. WE'RE ALMOST OUT OF TIME.
I KNOW, I KNOW!
WE'D BE GONE ALREADY IF MR. PARANOID HADN'T HIDDEN THIS PLACE SO WELL...
WHAT IF KNUCKLES' FAMILY HASN'T SEEN HIM? WON'T THEY BE UPSET?
KNUCKLES CAME BACK HERE DAYS AGO.* I KNOW HE WOULD'VE STOPPED IN AT LEAST ONCE.
"THEY MUST HAVE SEEN HIM RECENTLY."
OH, AURORA, NO... NOT AGAIN...
*SEE STH #178

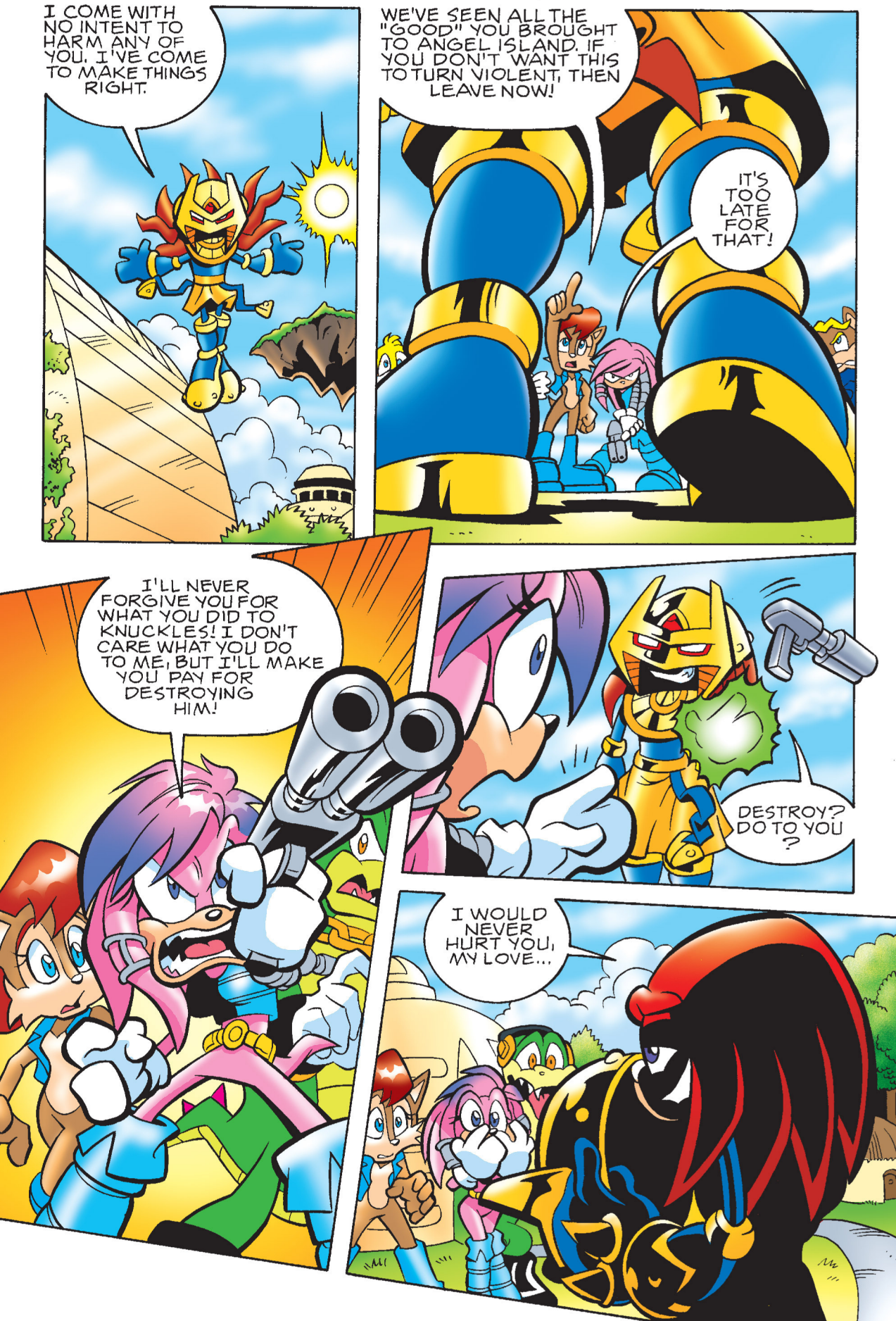

DO NOT FEAR THE RETURN OF ENERJAK. I'VE COME TO END THE YEARS OF PAIN AND STRIFE.
THE TECHNOLOGY YOU ONCE CLUNG TO HAS BEEN TAKEN FROM YOU. YOU HAVE BEEN THE PREY...
...OF THE DINGO REGIME.
BUT NO MORE!
DO NOT STRUGGLE, MY PEOPLE. I WILL SET EVERYTHING RIGHT...


...ONCE I RETURN YOU ALL TO ALBION!
NO!
NOW...WITH ANGEL ISLAND STABILIZED, IT'S TIME I TOOK CARE OF MATTERS ABROAD.
NAMELY THOSE WHO THINK IT WISE TO SPY ON ME.
I'M VERY DISAPPOINTED WITH YOU. YOU SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER.
AHHHH!
NICOLE ?!
HE'S COMING!

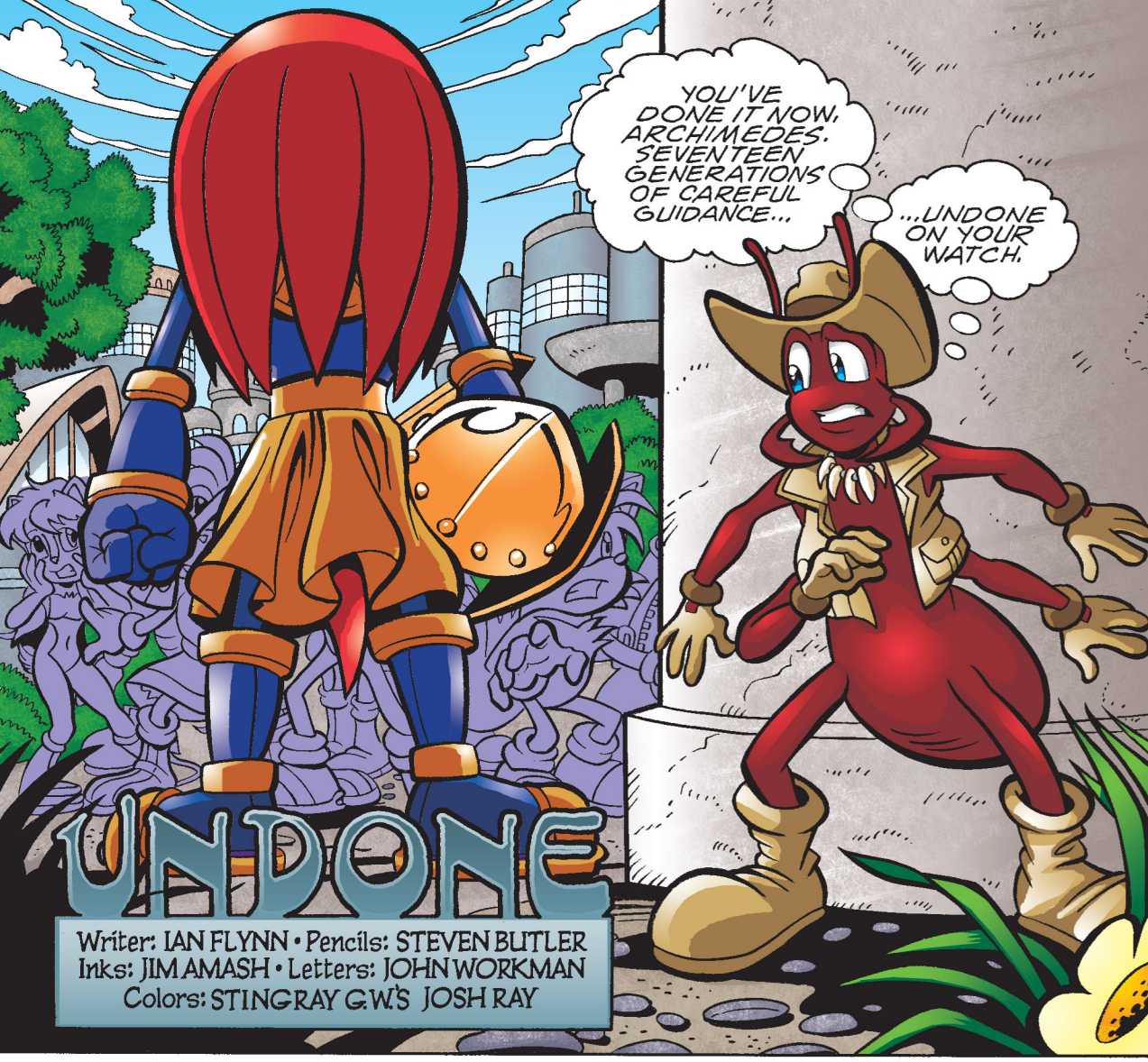

HWWWVVT
OH, COME ON! DON'T TELEPORT NOW!
SONIC...I DON'T SEE ANYBODY LEFT.
YEAH, WE WERE TOO LATE AFTER ALL. I HATE LOOKING SLOW...
SONIC! TAILS! ENERJAK IS JUST OUTSIDE THE CITY GATES! GET BACK HERE!
ON OUR WAY, NICOLE.
WHOOP!
SORRY, BUDDY, BUT WE NEED TO GET THERE AS FAST AS POSSIBLE.

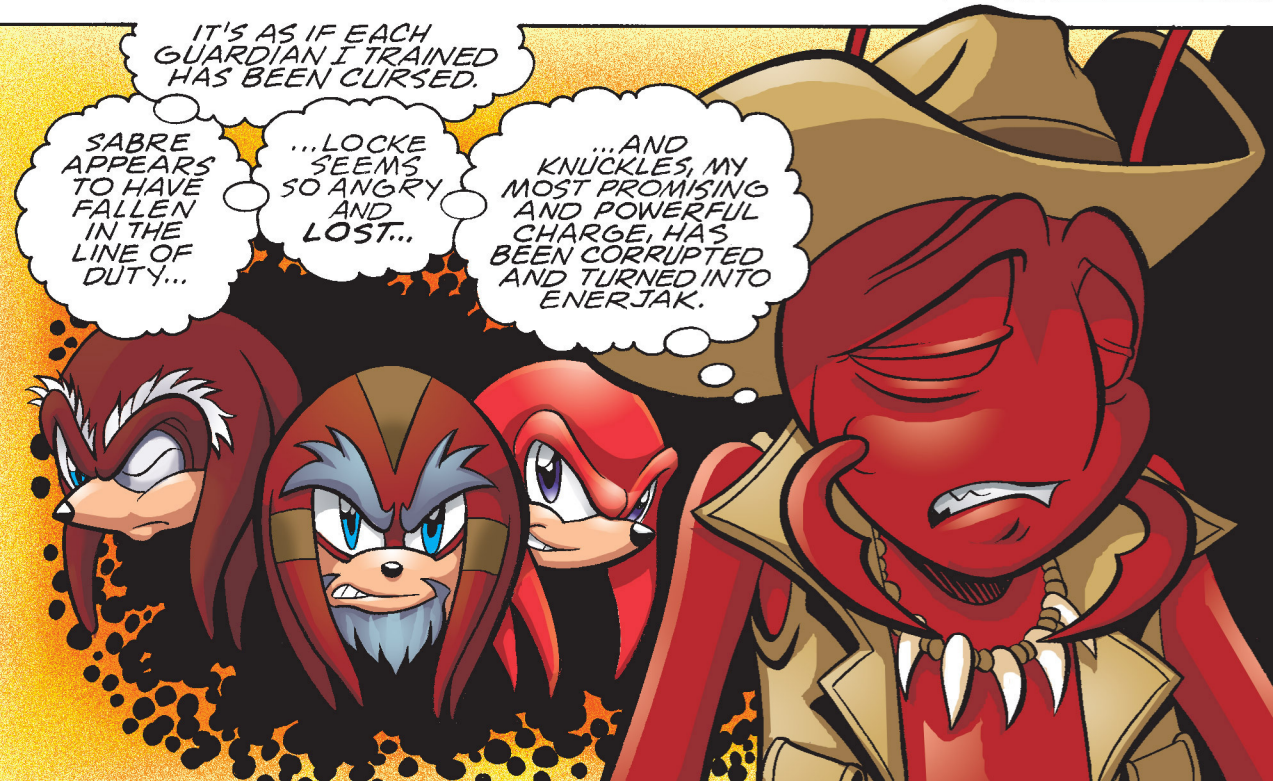

WHAT ABOUT KNUCKLES? WE NEVER FOUND HIM!
KNUX IS THE TOUGHEST GUY WE KNOW. HE'LL JUST HAVE TO CATCH UP OR MISS OUT ON THE FUN.
BUT WE NEVER ACTUALLY FOUGHT ENERJAK BEFORE. DO YOU THINK WE'LL STAND A CHANCE?
AN OMNIPOTENT DEMIGOD OF CHAOS ENERGY? *PSSHT!* WE'LL BE DONE BY DINNER!

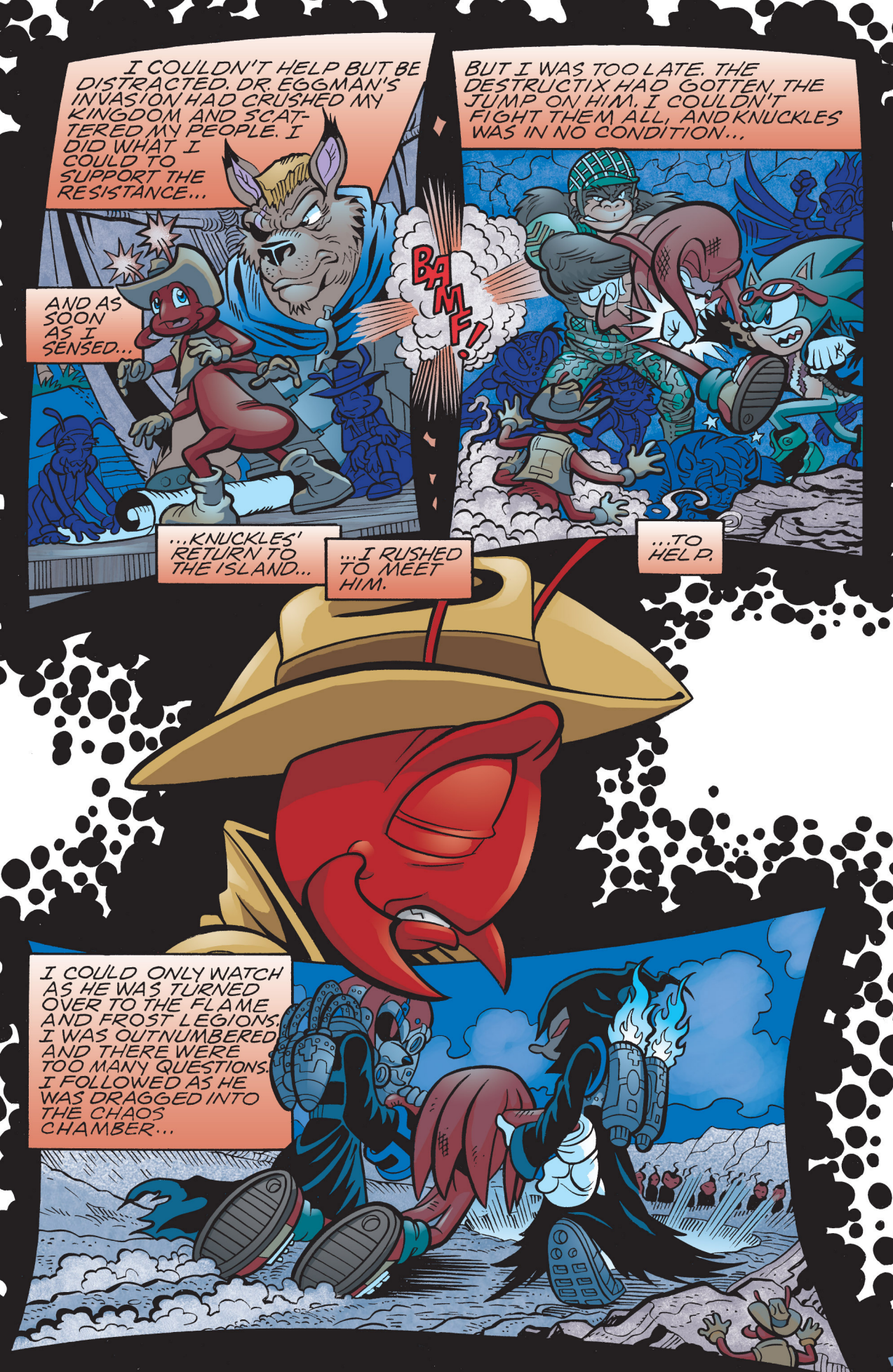
FREEDOM FIGHTERS AND CHAOTIX TO THE FRONT! ROYAL GUARD, SECURE THE KING AND ACORN COUNCIL! EVERYONE ELSE TAKE SHELTER!
UM... JULIE-SU? YOU OKAY?
NO, MIGHTY. I'M NOT.
SONIC AND TAILS NEVER FOUND KNUCKLES. ENERJAK FINISHED WITH ANGEL ISLAND. YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS. KNUCKLES IS GONE.
STAY CALM, EVERY-ONE.
THE CITY'S FORCE FIELD HELD OFF THE FULL POWER OF THE EGG FLEET.*
*RECENTLY, IN STH #177.
KZZZKT

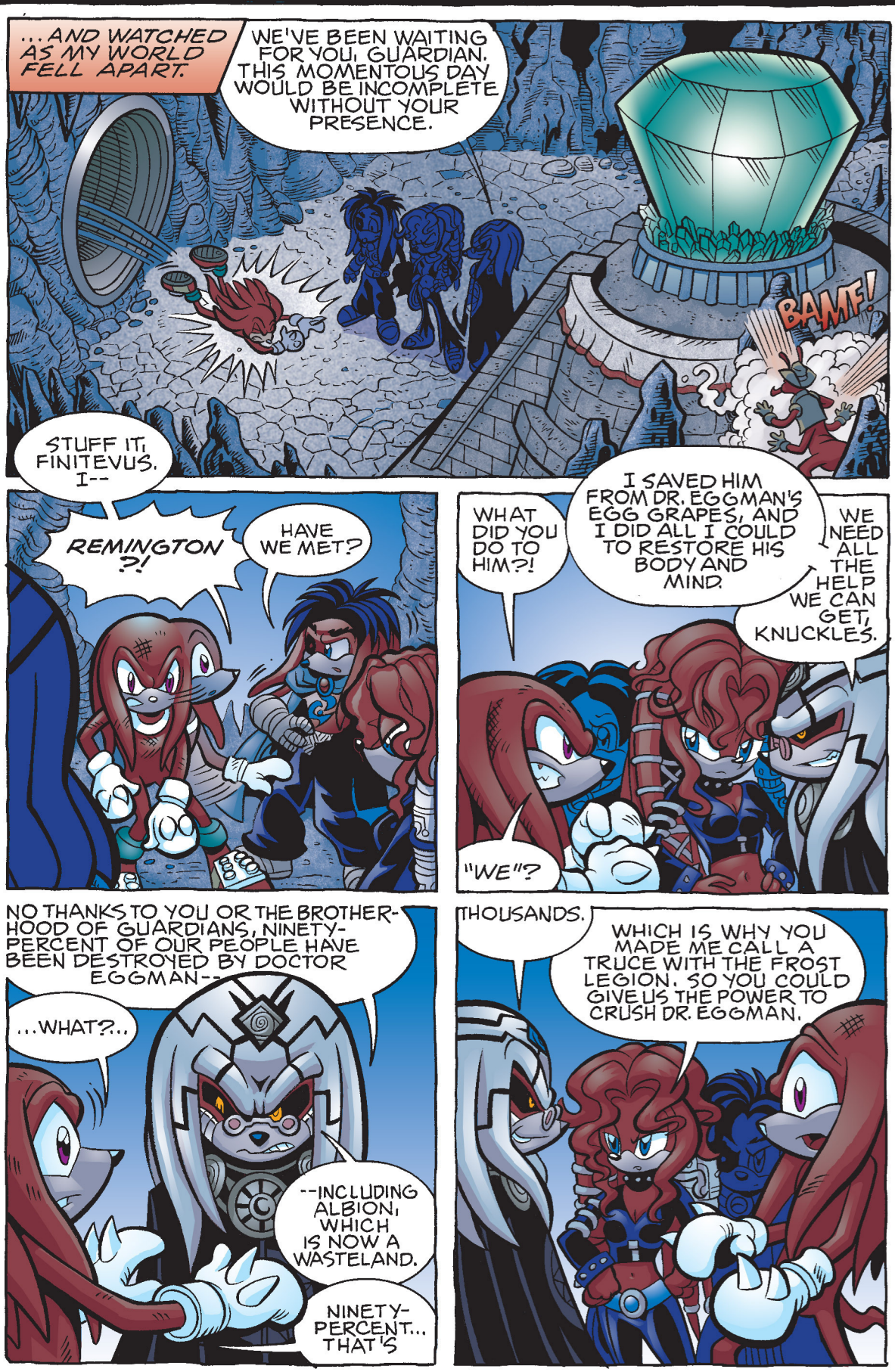

I COME WITH NO INTENT TO HARM ANY OF YOU. I'VE COME TO MAKE THINGS RIGHT.
WE'VE SEEN ALL THE "GOOD" YOU BROUGHT TO ANGEL ISLAND. IF YOU DON'T WANT THIS TO TURN VIOLENT, THEN LEAVE NOW!
IT'S TOO LATE FOR THAT!
I'LL NEVER FORGIVE YOU FOR WHAT YOU DID TO KNUCKLES! I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU DO TO ME, BUT I'LL MAKE YOU PAY FOR DESTROYING HIM!
DESTROY? DO TO YOU ?
I WOULD NEVER HURT YOU, MY LOVE...

...AND I CAN'T VERY WELL DESTROY MYSELF!
KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA IS THE DREADED ENERJAK?! SONIC AND TAILS ARE ON THEIR WAY, AS IS THE MYSTERY AGENT SENT BY G.U.N.!
COME BACK NEXT MONTH AS THINGS REALLY HEAT UP IN:
"FALLEN ANGEL"
THE STORY IS NOT DONE YET! TURN THE PAGE TO FIND OUT HOW THE GUARDIAN KNUCKLES TURNED INTO THE VILLAIN - ENERJAK!


YOU'VE DONE IT NOW, ARCHIMEDES. SEVENTEEN GENERATIONS OF CAREFUL GUIDANCE...
...UNDONE ON YOUR WATCH.
UNDONE
Writer: IAN FLYNN • Pencils: STEVEN BUTLER
Inks: JIM AMASH • Letters: JOHN WORKMAN
Colors: STINGRAY G.W.'S JOSH RAY

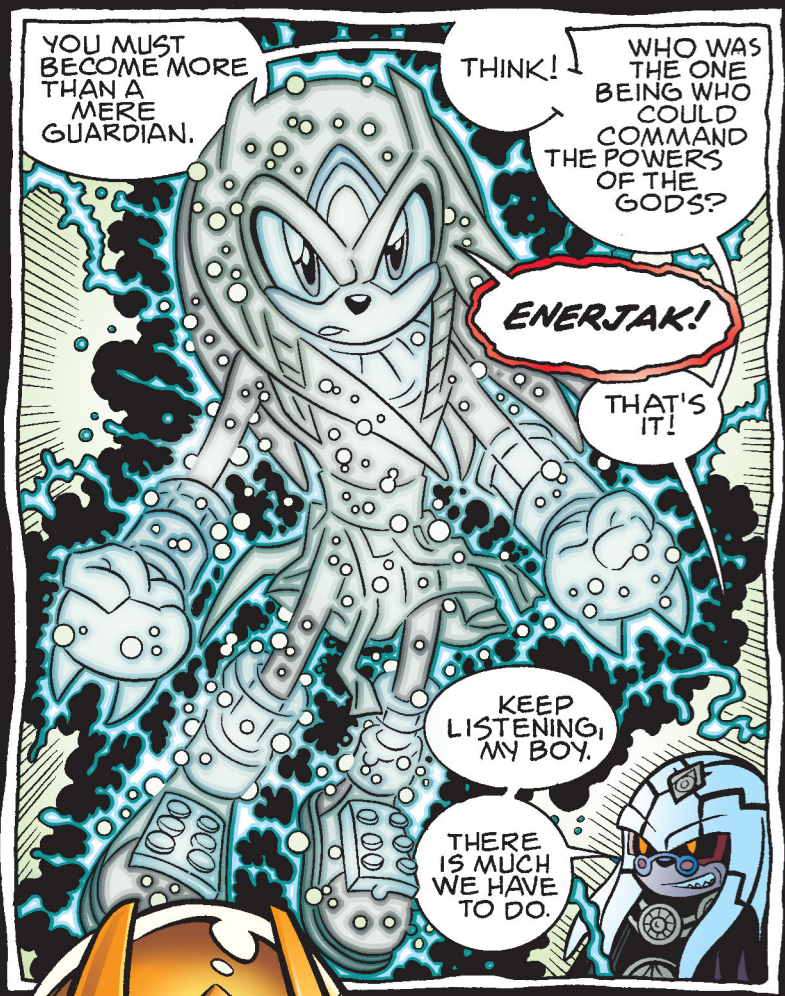

IT'S AS IF EACH GUARDIAN I TRAINED HAS BEEN CURSED.
SABRE APPEARS TO HAVE FALLEN IN THE LINE OF DUTY...
...LOCKE SEEMS SO ANGRY AND LOST...
...AND KNUCKLES, MY MOST PROMISING AND POWERFUL CHARGE, HAS BEEN CORRUPTED AND TURNED INTO ENERJAK.


I COULDN'T HELP BUT BE DISTRACTED. DR. EGGMAN'S INVASION HAD CRUSHED MY KINGDOM AND SCATTERED MY PEOPLE. I DID WHAT I COULD TO SUPPORT THE RESISTANCE...
AND AS SOON AS I SENSED...
BAM F!
BUT I WAS TOO LATE. THE DESTRUCTIX HAD GOTTEN THE JUMP ON HIM. I COULDN'T FIGHT THEM ALL, AND KNUCKLES WAS IN NO CONDITION...
...KNUCKLES' RETURN TO THE ISLAND...
...I RUSHED TO MEET HIM.
...TO HELP.
I COULD ONLY WATCH AS HE WAS TURNED OVER TO THE FLAME AND FROST LEGIONS. I WAS OUTNUMBERED AND THERE WERE TOO MANY QUESTIONS. I FOLLOWED AS HE WAS DRAGGED INTO THE CHAOS CHAMBER...


...AND WATCHED AS MY WORLD FELL APART.
WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU, GUARDIAN. THIS MOMENTOUS DAY WOULD BE INCOMPLETE WITHOUT YOUR PRESENCE.
BAMF!
STUFF IT, FINITEVUS. I--
REMINGTON?!
HAVE WE MET?
WHAT DID YOU DO TO HIM?!
I SAVED HIM FROM DR. EGGMAN'S EGG GRAPES, AND I DID ALL I COULD TO RESTORE HIS BODY AND MIND.
WE NEED ALL THE HELP WE CAN GET, KNUCKLES.
"WE"?
NO THANKS TO YOU OR THE BROTHERHOOD OF GUARDIANS, NINETY-PERCENT OF OUR PEOPLE HAVE BEEN DESTROYED BY DOCTOR EGGMAN--
...WHAT?...
--INCLUDING ALBION, WHICH IS NOW A WASTELAND.
NINETY-PERCENT... THAT'S
THOUSANDS.
WHICH IS WHY YOU MADE ME CALL A TRUCE WITH THE FROST LEGION. SO YOU COULD GIVE US THE POWER TO CRUSH DR. EGGMAN.

I'VE BEEN WATCHING ALL OF DIMITRI'S DESCENDANTS, AND I'VE FOUND THE ONE BEST SUITED TO USE THE MASTER EMERALD. WITH MY GUIDANCE...
NO!
I'LL SET THIS RIGHT! IT'S MY DUTY! MY RESPONSIBILITY!
I'LL COMMAND THE POWERS OF THE MASTER EMERALD. I--
AUGH!
NO! HE'LL TAKE ALL THE POWER HIMSELF!
PRECISELY!
WHAT?! YOU TRAITOR!
OH, NO... NOT THIS...

I TRUSTED YOU! I LET YOU INTO THE LEGION! YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS, YOU PALE--!
KNUCKLES..YOU'VE HAD THIS POWER BEFORE, REMEMBER? BUT DIMITRI TOLD ME HOW YOU COULDN'T CONTROL IT.
YOU ALMOST DESTROYED EVERYTHING. I CAN HELP YOU MOLD THE POWER INTO SOMETHING YOU CAN CONTROL, AND WE'LL SET EVERYTHING RIGHT.
EVERY-THING ...RIGHT...
IT'S TOO LATE NOW, LIEN-DA! WE HAVE TO REGROUP!


YOU MUST BECOME MORE THAN A MERE GUARDIAN.
THINK!
WHO WAS THE ONE BEING WHO COULD COMMAND THE POWERS OF THE GODS?
ENERJAK!
THAT'S IT!
KEEP LISTENING, MY BOY.
THERE IS MUCH WE HAVE TO DO.

I TRIED TO REACH OUT TO HIM WITH MY TELE-PATHY. BUT HIS MIND WAS SCRAMBLED BY DR. FINITEVUS' HEX. THE TRAP HAD BEEN SPRUNG, AND THERE WAS NOTHING I COULD DO TO HELP HIM. AND NOW THERE'S NOTHING IN THIS WORLD THAT CAN STOP HIM...

Come back next month for The origin of Dr. Finitevus!

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